

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 8, 2007
MANSFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

The Annual Town Meeting for Budget Consideration was called to order at 8:00 p.m. in the Mansfield Middle School Auditorium by the Town Clerk, Mary Stanton. The Town Clerk read the Notice and Warning of the Meeting and explained who would be eligible to vote. She then requested nominations for Moderator.

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson nominated Harry Johnson to serve as Moderator. Hearing no additional nominations the Town Clerk declared Mr. Johnson the Moderator.

Mr. Johnson requested that the meeting be conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order and noted the Town Attorney Dennis O'Brien would serve as parliamentarian. A motion to follow Roberts Rules of Order was moved, seconded and passed. Mr. Johnson requested that citizens limit their comments to three minutes.

The Moderator recognized Mayor Paterson who introduced and welcomed Leigh Duffy as the newest Town Council member. The Mayor also welcomed the newly appointed Assistant to the Town Manager, Maria Capriola and Matthew Hart, who was recently appointed Town Manager after serving as the Assistant Town Manager for six years.

Mr. Johnson recognized Mr. Schaefer, Finance Committee Chair, who presented the following resolutions:

RESOLVED: That the General Fund Budget for the Town of Mansfield, appended totaling \$31,613,530 is hereby adopted as the proposed operating budget for the Town of Mansfield for the fiscal year July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

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RESOLVED: That the Capital Fund Budget for the Town of Mansfield, appended totaling \$2,472,800 is hereby adopted as the capital improvements to be undertaken during fiscal year 2007/08 or later years.

RESOLVED: That the proposed Capital and Non-Recurring Reserve Fund Budget for fiscal year July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008 in the amount of \$1,352,419 be adopted.

It is further resolved, that the following Appropriations Act be recommended for adoption at the annual Town Meeting for budget consideration:

RESOLVED: That the proposed General Fund Budget for the Town of Mansfield for fiscal year July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008 in the amount of \$31,613,530 which proposed

budget was adopted by the Council on April 23, 2007, be adopted and that the sums estimated and set forth in said budget be appropriated for the purpose indicated.

RESOLVED: That in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-51, the proportionate share for the Town of Mansfield of the annual budget for Regional School District No. 19 shall be added to the General Fund Budget appropriation for the Town of Mansfield for fiscal year July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008 and said sums shall be paid by the Town to the Regional School District as they become available.

RESOLVED: That the proposed Capital Projects Budget for fiscal year July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008 in the amount of \$2,472,800 be adopted provided that the portion proposed to be funded by bonds or notes shall, at the appropriate times, be introduced for action by the Town Council subject to a vote by referendum as required by Section 407 of the Town Charter.

RESOLVED: That the proposed Capital and Non-Recurring Reserve Fund Budget for fiscal year July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008 in the amount of \$1,352,419 be adopted.

Mr. Clouette seconded the motion. Mr. Schaefer and Mr. Clouette presented an overview of the budget noting that the Council used the best information available when determining the estimation of state revenue. The increase in the mill rate is expected to be .99 of a mill. The sole new initiative in this budget is the addition of a state trooper position.

Mr. Johnson recognized William Simpson, Chair of the Board of Education. Mr. Simpson thanked the citizens of the Town for their support for the schools noting that this year's increase is 4.8%.

Aline Booth, 451 Wormwood Hill Road, moved to require a confidential vote on the proposed resolutions. The motion was seconded.

Martin Sommer, 410 Warrenville Road, questioned whether three separate votes would be needed.

Eugene Manning, 423 Bassets Bridge Road, asked how the written ballot process would work. Mr. Johnson explained that paper ballots are prepared and that the Assistant Registrars and the Assistant Town Clerk will facilitate the voting.

The motion to require a confidential vote failed after an initial voice vote and a subsequent show of hands with 67 votes in favor and 84 against.

Barbara Casey, 70 Davis Road, asked for more information on the proposed Information Technology Director's position. Council member Clouette noted that the position is shared among the Board of Education, the Town and Region 19 and is an attempt to economize and better organize the computer equipment and the needs of the three entities.

Charles Eaton, 89 Lorraine Drive, expressed support for the Community Center commenting that it is not just a fitness club but serves as a true community center. He also thanked the Town for the work on the Rte 275 crosswalk. Mr. Eaton noted that there might be some citizen who could not attend tonight's meeting due to their jobs, children or age and urged support for making the process accessible to all by having the budget go to referenda following the Annual Town Meeting.

Martin Sommer, 410 Warrenville Road, commented that negotiated salary increases and energy cost are a large part of the budget. He expressed support for the Community Center and stated that he saw nothing superfluous in the budget.

Richard Woodward, 60 Woods Road, noted that the Community Center is good for the people that use it and also that taxes are too high.

Alfonso D'Antonio, 118 Davis Road, commented that he found the evening's meeting enlightening and appreciated the power point presentation. He noted few arguments with the budget but would like the approval process to include a referendum.

Robert Kremer, 67 Charles Lane, expressed support for the budget adjourning to referendum as the Region 19 budget does. He would like to see the two referenda both voted on the same day.

Quentin Kessel, 97 Codfish Falls Road, posed a point of order, noting that the call of the town meeting is to discuss the budget not the charter revision process. The Moderator agreed with the point of order.

Ross Hall, 62 Crane Hill Road, called the question. The motion was seconded. Charles Eaton requested a point of order and asked the Chair to rule whether or not the discussion was complete. Mr. Johnson stated that it is within the prerogative of the group to decide whether or not to close debate. The motion to call the question passed.

The motion to approve the appropriations, as presented by Mr. Schaefer, passed. The budget was adopted.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed.

The Annual Town Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Harry Johnson, Moderator

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

